



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2008

Contact: Jennifer Ott
858-573-1285

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT **FACT SHEET**

CITY BEGINS ENFORCEMENT OF NEW RECYCLING ORDINANCE

ENFORCEMENT FOLLOWS GRACE PERIOD, AND BROAD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE EFFORT

The City of San Diego begins enforcement of its new Recycling Ordinance today, Monday, May 19, 2008. The enforcement will affect apartment and condominium complexes, commercial and non-residential buildings, and special events.

As a condition of adopting the Ordinance, the City included a 90-day grace period on enforcement. The grace period was established to give managers of buildings included in the ordinance the opportunity to develop sufficient and effective recycling programs.

The Environmental Services Department has been working with trade associations such as the San Diego County Apartment Association, S.D. Building Owners & Managers Association, the S.D. Regional Chamber of Commerce and San Diego County Taxpayers Association, as well as hundreds of apartment, condominium and real estate managers, special event organizers and other businesses to implement and improve their recycling programs.

ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

The City Recycling Ordinance, which was passed in November 2007, aims to reduce the amount of waste entering local landfills in order to lengthen the life of the Miramar Landfill, meet California recycling mandates and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Property owners and managers of apartment and condominium complexes of 100 units or more; commercial and non-residential buildings 20,000 square feet or more; and special events must provide recycling services and education to their tenants, employees, and participants:

- Apartments and condominiums are required to provide collection of recyclables at least twice a month.

- Commercial and non-residential buildings are required to provide collection of recyclables as frequently as necessary.
- Owners and managers of these facilities are required to offer recycling of at least plastic and glass bottles and jars, paper, newspaper, metal containers, and cardboard.
- Facilities must have designated areas for City-approved recycling containers, and containers must have appropriate signage.
- Owners and property managers must also provide education on the types of materials accepted in the recycling program, location of the recycling containers and responsibilities of all tenants and employees to participate in the program.
- All tenants/occupants must separate recyclables from trash and place recyclables in the designated containers.

RECYCLING ENFORCEMENT

Violators who do not comply with the ordinance's requirements may be subject to inspections and possible fines:

- Code Enforcement Officers will conduct inspections primarily on complaints and reports provided to the City.
- The first, second and third violations will be handled with notification and advisement of recycling requirements and the provision of technical assistance from City staff.
- After the third inspection, violations will be cited and fined.
- Fines are based on the magnitude of the violation.
- Cases will be referred to the City Attorney's Office after constant refusal to comply with recycling ordinance requirements.

"Fines, up to \$1,000, will be assessed in cases where education and assistance have been offered and the violator continues to fail to meet the requirements of the Ordinance," said Chris Gonaver, Environmental Services Department Director. "Recycling Specialists are available for technical assistance to help develop a recycling program and to answer any questions."

HELP IS AVAILABLE

- The City can help with educational resources and technical assistance to help ensure businesses, apartment and condo complexes and special events implement successful recycling programs.
- The Environmental Service Department's (ESD) web page, www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services, has downloadable fliers, sample tenant letters and sample newsletter articles to be used in setting up a recycling program. The web page also has many other resources including lists of service providers and links to other helpful organizations.
- ESD also has Recycling Specialists on staff that can provide technical assistance and advice on how to set up a successful program. Call 858-694-7000.

###